

Senators Open Dodd Probe

Stennis Pledges To Get the Truth

By ROBERT WALTERS
Star Staff Writer

Sen. John C. Stennis, chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, today opened formal hearings on charges against Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., with a pledge to secure "the true and essential facts."

In an opening statement released at the start of the closed session Stennis said the committee's staff had examined "over 4000 documents which had been removed from Senator Dodd's files."

"Although the committee has not completely gone into the facts surrounding the source of these papers, the committee feels that the copies of such papers are sufficiently stigmatized so as to preclude their use in evidence here," he said.

"But the committee wishes to make it clear that all papers offered in the current hearings were voluntarily given to the hearings by Senator Dodd."

Stennis said that while the committee had not prejudged any of the charges of misconduct against Dodd, his 1964 trip to Germany "appears to be a critical element in his relationship to Julius Klein."

"Especially Interested . . ."

Klein is a Chicago public relations man registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent representing West German business interests.

Dodd has been accused of traveling to Germany and using his position as a senator to aid Klein.

"The committee will accordingly be especially interested in any evidence which seeks to establish or refute the allega-

tion that Senator Dodd employed the official sanction of such a trip as a subterfuge for a scheme to improve the reputation which Julius Klein had in Germany," Stennis said.

The first several days of hearings will be closed to the public, but the committee is expected to hold open hearings before the end of the month on the charges leveled against Dodd by two newspaper columnists.

The hearings mark the end of a four-month investigation by staff members of the committee, formally known as the Senate Select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

James P. Boyd Jr. and Mrs. Marjorie Carpenter, former Dodd employees accused by the senator of removing files from his office, are expected to be the first witnesses to appear before the executive session.

1st Probe Since '52

Dodd is the first senator to be investigated by a committee of Congress since 1952, when a select Senate committee recommended that the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., be censured.

Dodd, however, requested the probe.

The charges against Dodd were first advanced in late January by columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, who subsequently have written more than 30 columns charging illegal and unethical behavior on the senator's part.

Dodd has filed a \$2 million libel and conspiracy suit against the columnists in U.S. District Court here, but the case is not expected to reach a conclusion until long after the Senate committee has finished its work.

Dodd is 59. He has been known in the Senate as both an ardent anti-Communist and a liberal on

some other issues. He is a former FBI agent, Nuremberg war trials prosecutor and member of the House.

Serving his second term in the Senate, Dodd is known to be a close personal friend of President Johnson. He was briefly mentioned as a possible running mate for Johnson before the President tapped Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey in 1964.

The Pearson and Anderson charges covered a wide range of activities, but the first phase of the Ethics Committee probe will center around the senator's relationship with Julius Klein, a Chicago public relations man.

Klein is registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent representing the Society for German-American Cooperation. In 1963 he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he was paid \$125,000 to \$150,000 a year by the organization.

The Charges

In the first of the series of columns about Dodd and Klein, Pearson and Anderson said the senator "has delivered laudatory Senate speeches about West Germany, signed letters that Klein drafted for him and entertained German visitors on Klein's expense account."

"When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee investigated Klein's operations as a foreign agent, Dodd used his membership on the committee to soften the impact. He even made a special trip to Germany in 1964 to help Klein hang onto his clients."

Klein has said the charges stemmed from "a series of highly colored innuendoes, supported by partial quotations wrenched from context, or deliberately exaggerated and distorted."

Dodd has said the charges were "false and defamatory" and were written "with mali-

cious intent to damage and defame" him. He said the 1964 trip to West Germany and all other contacts with German officials were the product of official Senate assignments.

Among other charges advanced against Dodd by Pearson and Anderson are these:

1. Dodd siphoned off \$100,000 to \$200,000 raised for campaign purposes at a series of testimonial dinners and parties between 1961 and 1965 and used the money to pay both personal expenses and political expenses unrelated to the campaign. Dodd contends such funds were tax-free gifts.

2. Dodd accepted the loan of a new car from a Connecticut contractor for two years, then interceded with several federal agencies in an effort to secure government contracts for the businessman.

3. Dodd attempted to undermine U.S. foreign policy during the Congo crisis by unlawfully collaborating with the information director of the breakaway Katanga Province.

4. Dodd accepted gifts and favors from Connecticut manufacturers, South Korean officials, Hartford insurance firms and others, and accepted airplane rides from companies that had an interest in pending legislation or congressional investigations.

The Internal Revenue Service has launched an investigation into the charges concerning Dodd's use of the campaign funds.

The Justice Department also has opened an investigation into the allegations against Dodd, but has not yet commented on the case.